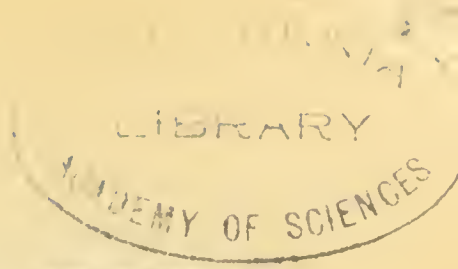


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THE
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GULL
BULLETIN



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DECEMBER MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on Thursday evening, the 13th of December, at 8 o'clock, in the Board Room of the State Harbor Commissioners, room 19, second floor, Ferry Building.

Mr. F. R. Kauffman of San Francisco will talk on the "Great Influence of Sportsmen on Conservation of all Wild Life Species."

Mr. Kauffman is the Editor of the *Pacific Sportsman* Magazine and member of important committees of Associated Sportsmen of California.



DECEMBER FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, December 16th, to Golden Gate Park. Take McAllister Street car No. 5, "Beach" sign, to 43rd Avenue entrance on Fulton Street. Bring lunch.

The usual route will be followed, skirting Chain of Lakes, and passing Stadium, Spreckels and Lloyd Lakes, ending at Japanese Tea Garden, where lunch will be eaten if the party so desires. This will give those who care to an opportunity to attend the Sunday afternoon lecture at the California Academy of Sciences, at three o'clock—"The Eye; Its Structure and Function." Illustrated. Dr. F. W. Weymouth, Associate Professor of Physiology, Stanford University.



NOVEMBER MEETING: The one hundred and thirty-eighth meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific was held on the 8th of November in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners. Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair; Mrs. Carl Smith officiating as Secretary.

The speaker of the evening gave an account of novel and unusual observations and studies, entitling his topics: "Growth and Reactions of Barn Owls," and "Some Observations of the White-Tailed Kite," and illustrated the same with exceptionally interesting slides.

Mr. Pickwell made careful and continuous observation of broods of young owls in the campus of the State Teachers' College, San Jose, California, of which he is the Chief of the Nature Study Departments.

A pair of barn owls have occupied for many years the window casements of the campus tower of the San Jose State Teachers' College. During the spring of 1928 daily observations, weighings and measurements were made of the young. In all, several hundred items of growth were recorded. These show curves of unusual interest, not the least of which is a striking loss of weight just prior to nest leaving; in addition, the psychic development showing acquisition of fear, gaining of intimidation, simulation and accompanying vocal responses were closely followed. Some material on nature and quantity of food were also collected.

White-tailed kites were discovered during the summer of 1928 nesting in semi-colony in a region of Santa Clara County near Evergreen. Frequent visits secured some unusual photographs, many notes on the reactions of adults and young and a hint or two regarding the reasons for the rarity of this striking, beautiful and gentle bird.



THE STATE BIRD CAMPAIGN

Mrs. F. T. Bicknell reports that a lively interest in the campaign for the selection of the California State Bird has spread into San Joaquin, Coachella and Imperial Valleys. She adds that the marked educational effect and the awakened interest in birds in general is most gratifying. Mrs. Bicknell is chairman of the committee conducting the activities for the California Audubon Society in the southern part of the State. Mr. Bert Harwell, chairman of the committee for the Audubon Association of the Pacific, is actively leading the activities in the northern part. He can be heard every Thursday between 6:20 and 7 p.m. broadcasting over KGO. He reports that as a result his correspondence has become voluminous, bearing many notes. Also that he has arranged with the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Native Daughters of the Golden West that their organizations officially endorse the movement and will accordingly make appropriate announcements in their respective bulletins. The Parlors will be called upon to make their respective decisions and to send in their resulting votes.



THE SEATTLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

An Audubon Society that displays continuous and well-directed activity is the one in Seattle. Every one of its monthly bulletins reports meetings with lectures, field trips and frequent other reunions or dinners. Plans have been made for the Christmas Bird Census, to be taken on Sunday, the 23rd of December. These plans provide for groups of three to five to follow certain routes and at different times during the day, each of four to five hours' duration. Thus will the entire neighboring district be covered, even though many of the paths cross at different points. Apparently there will be a very large number of such parties, which gives evidence of an extended interest in and knowledge of birds in that northern city. We shall be interested to read the reports of the observations.

Those of our members who would like to make a census for San Francisco, or neighboring sections, or say Golden Gate Park alone, will please to communicate with Mrs. Bessie W. Kibbe so that parties may be organized.



Mr. T. Gilbert Pierson is the Chairman of the National Committee on Wild-Life Legislation, and in that capacity calls the attention of the Audubon Association of the Pacific to legislation pending in Congress that would provide desirable sanctuaries for migratory birds. We are called upon for an expression of our decision in favor of the measure. Part of the communication follows and our members are requested to be prepared to discuss and to decide on the proposition at our next meeting:

"A splendid bill for the establishment, by the government, of inviolate sanctuaries for migratory birds passed the Senate last spring, and is now pending in a House committee. Briefly, this measure provides for the acquisition of areas of land and water suitable for breeding, resting and feeding places for migratory birds—especially water fowl and other water birds—and for the guardianship of these territories. The bill authorizes an appropriation (but does not appropriate) \$1,000,000 annually.

"The national wild-life organizations are behind this bill, and have appointed this committee to use every reasonable effort to secure its passage. Unfortunately, on the floor of the Senate an amendment was hastily introduced which would require the government to turn over its bird reservations to State authorities, *and give the States money to guard them*. Congress will not agree to this feature, as the government would insist upon caring for its wild fowl reservations as it does its present bird, lighthouse, military, big game, and national park reservations. The committee, of course, will agree to have this amendment removed, without which we could have no hope of passing the bill. With this change Congress may agree to the measure, if the people of the country in sufficient volume will register their approval with their Congressmen."

* * *

SEASONAL NOTES: In the fine weather that followed the recent heavy rains (3 Dec.) the Robin is reported (Dr. J. O. Snyder) as singing about Palo Alto. The Thrasher doing the same at Atherton (C. B. Lastreto) and the NUTTALL Sparrow, in San Francisco.

* * *

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP. A perfect Indian summer day, sky and water blue and white, faint haze to soften distant skyline, bright sunshine, not too warm, the trees in autumn dress with tawny oaks and pale gold maples against the vivid green of sequoias or the darker background of the laurels, many bright little feathered folk flitting from sunshine to shadow and back again, and wandering through all this a band of nature lovers all eyes and ears of appreciation for the beauty and life on every side.

And there is so much to see. First, the leisurely crossing of the smooth bay, with gulls wheeling and flashing above us while scaup and grebes bob like corks on the wavelets and low-flying cormorants draw a black hyphen across the blue water. Then Richardson's Bay seen from the train. It never fails to give us thrills, this time with sleek pintails and shy canvasbacks and innumerable little ruddies in sober winter garb.

At Fairfax, so full a bird chorus greeted us on arrival that it took keen ears to single out the individual songsters. A lone Calypste Anna sat rather pensively on a wire, while a garden gave us a flock of juncos scratching industriously in the litter. All were in their new winter clothes, the males with velvety black hoods and brownish bodies shading to pinkish on the flanks, but one lone female (?) was very light all over, the color best described by the popular shade of "rose-beige."

Flocks of small birds in the higher trees puzzled us for a while, but the soft, sibilant calls and flash of yellow on wing and tail soon proclaimed them to be pine siskins.

Along the winding road we went, while the ubiquitous crows cawed as they flew swiftly above us and a red-tailed hawk whirled and soared still higher. Nuttall and golden-crowned sparrows were seen, but not in their usual numbers. A spotted towhee hid in the brush and squealed at us, while a Vigor's wren scolded and sputtered.

As we turned into the wooded path those ahead caught sight of a rare varied thrush, while the hermits were much in evidence. Sharp, ventriloquial calls were finally traced to the elusive plain titmouse. A tiny creeper worked up the redwood trunks. Approaching the open fields at Bon Tempe, western bluebirds hovered and perched and one Say phoebe rewarded our search. Savannah sparrows trust their protective coloration sufficiently to let us come very close, then made their low, short flights to nearby grass tussocks, to repeat the operation as we advanced.

THE GULL

Climbing the wooded slopes the announcement was made that owls—any old owls—were to be particularly searched for, and that there would be a prize for the discoverer of such a bird. All the “birders” were fired with enthusiasm and we scattered to search. The writer finally caught a glimpse of a large, tawny-barred bird winging noiselessly among the tall timber, and a joyful proclamation of the fact set all the Audubonites on the trail. Twice again, the elusive bird was sighted and proclaimed a “long-eared” or a “short-eared owl,” but so shy was it that the exact identity was even then doubtful. (N. B.—The prize never materialized!) The owl finally departed in the flesh so we sat down on a pleasant, sunny hillside to eat lunch and earnestly to discuss its affinities, which subject lasted all day.

A very large madrone tree, laden with ripe berries, above our lunch place, proved to be a popular gathering place. A Cabanis woodpecker hammered at the trunk and slowly circled the tree, while great flocks of cedar waxwings in the tree tops ate berries industriously, dropping the seeds until they pattered on the dry leaves beneath. Robins also feasted on the red fruit in numbers and elsewhere chickadees clung upside down on twiglets uttering their cheerful calls.

Deer were seen several times along the aisles of the woods in one and twos, does and well-grown fawns, seven in all, but only once did we see a buck—at the water's edge of Lake Lagunitas—standing, startled, with head and antlers erect and tail twitching—and then he was gone.

So we came down the trail on the home stretch, stopping at Phoenix Lake in the early twilight to spy upon the coots, the canvas backs and the eared grebe, and then hurrying along the long road under the yellow-foliaged elms to catch the home train in the gathering dusk.

Birds encountered were: western and American eared grebes; Farallon double-crested cormorant; American pintail duck; canvas-back, lesser scaup ducks and white-winged and surf scoters; ruddy duck; northern turkey vulture; sharp-shinned and Cooper hawks; western red-tailed hawk; desert sparrow hawk, coast California quail; American coot; northern killdeer; northern, western, California and Bonaparte gulls; Anna hummingbird; western belted kingfisher; Cabanis hairy and California acorn-storing woodpeckers, Monterey red-shafted flicker; northern Say and black phoebes; southern coast stellar and northwestern California jays; western crow; California plain titmouse, Marin chestnut-backed chickadee; Pacific coast bush-tit; tawny brown creeper; ruddy wren-tit; Vigors Bewick wren; dwarf hermit and coast varied thrushes; western robin; western Mexican bluebird; western ruby-crowned kinglet; American pipit; cedar waxwing; Pacific Audubon warbler; western meadowlark, California Brewer blackbird; California purple finch, green-backed Arkansas goldfinch, pine siskin; San Francisco spotted and brown towhees; western Savannah and lark, fox sparrows, Sierra Nevada Oregon junco, Nuttall white-crowned and golden-crowned sparrows. 57 species.

Members present were: Mesdames Kibbe, Mexia, Stephens; Mesdemoiselles Cokefair, Ethel Crum; Messrs. Bryant, Myer, Stephens. As guests: Messrs. Bidinger, Prior, Soegaard, Van Schaick and Wagner. Eight members and five guests.

YNES MEXIA, Historian.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to the Corresponding Secretary.

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